




# FARMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

## POLICY AND PROCEDURE

	<b>Policy Number:</b> 241-07	<b>Effective Date:</b> 09/10/2015	
	<b>Subject:</b> Canine Training Aids		
	<b>Approved by:</b>  <b>Steven D. Hebbe, Chief of Police</b>		

### PURPOSE:

To provide guidelines for the storage and use of controlled substances as canine training aids.

### POLICY:

It is the policy of the Farmington Police Department to establish procedures for the storage and use of controlled substances which are used as canine training aids for the canine handler.

### PROCEDURE:

Controlled substance evidence that has been tested by the New Mexico State Crime Laboratory and is no longer of any evidentiary value, or controlled substances obtained from the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, may be used as a canine training aid.

#### **Issuing and Replacement of Training Aids:**

The Canine Coordinator, with the authorization of the District Court, is responsible for the transition of the controlled substances from evidentiary purposes to use as a training aid. Controlled substances used as training aids are weighed, field tested, and placed in sealed, marked containers by the Evidence Clerk and the Canine Coordinator.

The Canine Coordinator is responsible for the training aids until they are issued to the canine handler. When the training aid is issued, the Canine Coordinator and the canine handler jointly inspect the training aid to ensure they are properly sealed and marked. A log detailing the issuance of each training aid is maintained by the Canine Coordinator.

In order to ensure the quality of Canine Training Aids, all training aids should be replaced every twelve months, where feasible to do so and appropriate replacement training aids are available. The Canine Coordinator is responsible for returning the training aid to be replaced to the Evidence Clerk. The Canine Coordinator and the Evidence Clerk jointly weigh and inspect the seals of the training aid container. The Evidence Clerk and the Canine Coordinator report any discrepancy in the weight or any appearance of tampering with the container or seals to their respective supervisors as soon as possible.

Once the Canine Coordinator and the Evidence Clerk satisfactorily determine the absence of discrepancies in

the weight, appearance, or packaging of the controlled substance, a final verification of the container's content shall be jointly undertaken. For purpose of content verification, prior to acceptance of the controlled substance for final destruction, a field testing kit, appropriate to the drug being tested, shall suffice for content verification. Any discrepancy revealed in the content of the controlled substance shall be immediately reported to the respective supervisors of the Canine Coordinator and the Evidence Clerk.

Training aids scheduled to be replaced undergo evidence destruction procedures pursuant to the Property Management policy and procedure, #384-01.

### **Training Aids Security:**

The Canine Coordinator is responsible for the storage of the training aids until they are checked out by the Canine Handler. The training aids are stored in a locked safe in the Canine Coordinator's Office. A log of each issued training aid is maintained by the Canine Coordinator. The log indicates the date the training aid is issued, the canine handler it is issued to, and a description of the training aid, including the type of controlled substance and the weight.

Secure storage of the training aids is the responsibility of the canine handler it is issued to. Training Aids shall be stored in a locked safe in each Canine Handler's patrol vehicle. The Patrol Vehicle shall also be locked at all times when not in use. When not being used for a training exercise, training aids are stored in a locked cabinet. Access to the cabinet is restricted to the canine handler and Canine Coordinator. While not in storage, the training aid will always remain within the immediate control of the canine handler.

Department canine officers assigned to the Region II Narcotics Enforcement Task Force adhere to this policy, as well as any applicable Region II policies.

Canine Training Aids are subject to un-announced inspection and audit by the Inspections Lieutenant or his designee.